MARVEL COMICS PRESENTS
WOLVERINE
ALSO:
IRON FIST
MARVEL COMICS
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'BYE, TERRY & MARK!

MARVEL COMICS PRESENTS WOLVERINE

Steve Lightle — COVER
Terry Kavanagh — LAME DUCK EDITOR
Mark Powers — ASSISTANT EDITOR
Tom DeFalco — EDITOR IN CHIEF

WOLVERINE ..... pg. 1
BROTHERS IN ARMS
Part 2 of 5
"ALONE AGAINST THE COVEN"

Wolverine has been marked for death but he will go down fighting !

Writer — DAN SLOTT
Artist — STEVE LIGHTLE
Letterer — LIL HIGGINS
Colorist —STEVE & MARIANNE LIGHTLE

IRON FIST ..... pg. 9
DEPTHS OF DESPAIR
Part 1 of 4
"OPENING GAMBIT"

Iron Fist, Colleen Wing, and Misty Knight have arranged to meet an informant, who has enough information to bring down a large Yakuzida Clan. However they find themselves in the middle of a small war...

Writer — TONY MATIAS
Penciler — FRED HAYNES
Inker — JEFF ALBRECHT
Letterer — MICHAEL HIGGINS
Colorist — GLYNIS OLIVER

MARVEL® COMICS PRESENTS™ Vol. 1 No. 133 Late July 1993 (ISSN #1044-7180) Published by MARVEL COMICS Terry Stewart President Stan Lee Publisher Michael Hobson Group Vice President, Publishing OFFICE OF PUBLICATION 387 PARK AVENUE SOUTH NEW YORK N.Y 10016 SECOND CLASS POSTAGE PAID AT NEW YORK N.Y AND AT ADDITIONAL MAILING OFFICES Published biweekly

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POSTMASTER SEND ADDRESS CHANGES TO MARVEL COMICS PRESENTS, c o MARVEL COMICS, SUBSCRIPTION DEPARTMENT 387 PARK AVENUE SOUTH NEW YORK N.Y 10016 Printed in Canada

MARVEL READERS PRESENT

c/o Marvel Comics Group
387 Park Avenue South, New York, NY 10016
Attention Correspondents: All letters to be considered for publication must include your name and address though we will withhold that info by request!

Dear Terry and Mark,

MARVEL COMICS PRESENTS #130 was an enjoyable issue, drawing to a close two serials and getting ready for two new ones next issue.

1) Wolverine: This story is definitely one with its ups and downs. Throughout this saga, both the artwork and story were erratic, but the final chapter was well done. I'd like to see the Lynx appear in Wolverine's own magazine, where she could get more exposure. Dan Slott did a good job, although I wasn't overly pleased with the artwork. I hope Jensen polishes his skills before another serial. Maybe you could persuade James Fry to illustrate one? Overall grade: B. Entire story composite: B-.

2) American Eagle: "Screams" was a good story, and showed improvement from the last one. Writer John Figueroa seems to have an affinity for the character, so I'd hope to see American Eagle starring in at least a four-part serial. Nothing much is explored in eight pages, and the scripts seem to have a boring story due to the page limitations. The artwork, though, was top notch. I wonder why you don't give Ron Wilson and Don Hudson their own book. Their style is by far the best in MCP. Overall grade: A-.

3) Ghost Rider: This story, like "Passion Play," was erratic and sometimes fair, but I have been generally pleased. Ann Nocenti played up another chance to use Typhoid Mary and it seemed that Ghost Rider played only a supporting role in all the mystic madness. Steve Lightle did a good job in the final chapter, and I hope to see more of the other characters he and Ann invented for this tale. Overall grade: B+. Entire story composite: B+.

4) Iron Fist: Highlighted with more great art by Dave Hoover and Jeff Albrecht, this tale looks to be moving at a reasonably good pace. I totally disagree with letter-writer Scott Haan as he thinks Hoover's stuff resembles that of Rob Liefeld's. Where can he see the slightest similarity? (But if only Hoover could get Liefeld's popularity...)

Joey's script was good, as was the addition of Joe Rosen as letterer. Sorry, but that wasn't Michael Higgins, as credited. I'm enjoying this story, and I give it a solid and resounding A-.

5) Wolverine Cover: Not the best, but good. A-.

6) Ghost Rider Cover: B-. Another mediocre effort.

Keep up the good work, and I'll see you in two short weeks.

Joey Marchese
P.O. Box 2197
Union, NJ 07083

Dear Terry and Mark,

The Big surprise in the now concluded Wolverine/Lynx team-up was the appearance of Black Widow.

Although featured regularly within the pages of the AVENGERS, where she serves as chairperson of the fighting team, Natasha Romanoff remains a thinly explored character. Still, the latest issues of MARVEL COMICS PRESENTS showed her at her best, juxtaposed between the conflicting lures of her conscience and her duties as an espionage agent.

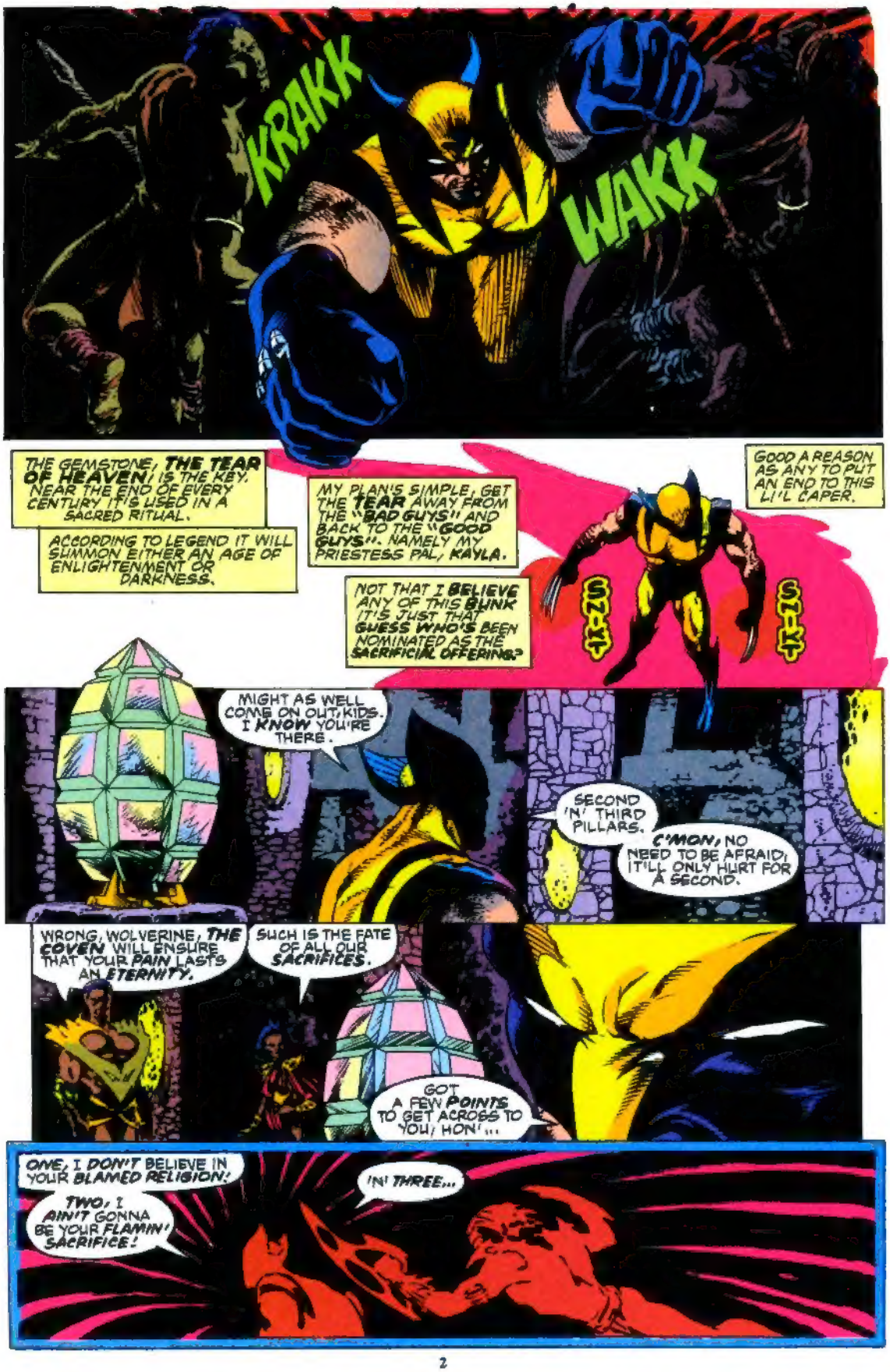
Natasha's abbreviated appearance raises the intriguing possibilities of a Wolverine/Black Widow team-up within the pages of this title. Sounds like a sure winner to me.

See ya in 14...

Jan C. Childress
82 Pierrepont St.
Brooklyn, NY 1120

Sounds like a good idea to us too, Jan. Thanks for writing.

KOMA KOI, ISLAND PARADISE OR SAFE HAVEN FOR RELIGIOUS NUT CASES? YOU TELL ME.
MY ORIGINAL PLANS FOR TONIGHT INVOLVED A SECLUDED LAGOON, A SIX PACK, 'N' A COUPLE O' SKIRTS.
GRASS SKIRTS AT THAT.
INSTEAD, I'M TRYIN' TO STOP A DEMONIC CULT CALLED THE COVEN FROM SUMMONING THE FINAL DARK AGE OF MAN.
GO FIGURE.
ALONE AGAINST THE COVEN


KRAKK
ZUND
WAKK
THE GEMSTONE, THE TEAR OF HEAVEN, IS THE KEY. NEAR THE END OF EVERY CENTURY IT'S USED IN A SACRED RITUAL.
ACCORDING TO LEGEND IT WILL SUMMON EITHER AN AGE OF ENLIGHTENMENT OR DARKNESS.
MY PLAN'S SIMPLE, GET THE TEAR AWAY FROM THE "BAD GUYS" AND BACK TO THE "GOOD GUYS", NAMELY MY PRIESTESS PAL, KAYLA.
NOT THAT I BELIEVE ANY OF THIS BUNK IT'S JUST THAT GUESS WHO'S BEEN NOMINATED AS THE SACRIFICIAL OFFERING?
GOOD A REASON AS ANY TO PUT AN END TO THIS LI'L CAPER.
SLI-KK
SLI-KK
MIGHT AS WELL COME ON OUT, KIDS. I KNOW YOU'RE THERE.
SECOND 'N' THIRD PILLARS.
C'MON, NO NEED TO BE AFRAID; IT'LL ONLY HURT FOR A SECOND.
WRONG, WOLVERINE, THE COVEN WILL ENSURE THAT YOUR PAIN LASTS AN ETERNITY.
SUCH IS THE FATE OF ALL OUR SACRIFICES.
GOT A FEW POINTS TO GET ACROSS TO YOU, HON'...
ONE, I DON'T BELIEVE IN YOUR BLAMED RELIGION!
TWO, I AIN'T GONNA BE YOUR FLAMIN' SACRIFICE!
'N' THREE...

THIS IS SUPPOSED TO BE MY VACATION!
KTANG
YOU GUYS ARE REALLY GETTIN' UNDER MY SKIN. KNOW THAT?
IF THAT IS YOUR WISH, LITTLE MAN...
...VEX WILL OBLIGE!

READ YOUR ENTRAILS TO BOOT!
SAASSH
SNIFF SNIFF
IT'S ALL THE SAME TO YOU, BUB...
...I GOT ANOTHER READIN' SELECTION FER YA...
HOW 'BOUT...
KKERROKK
YEARRGHH!
...YOUR PAL'S APPENDIX?!
SATYR! NO!!
KRETCH!
PUT AN END TO THIS, FETISH!
YOUR DESIRE LORD, MY PLEASURE.
HOW DO YOU FEEL ABOUT GIVING UP...

... A BURNT OFFERING?
FWOOOSH
WHAT THE DEVIL...?
AARRGHH!
FLAMES OF THE FALTINE!
A POWERFUL SPELL, SISTER! IN MOMENTS HE'LL BE A CHARRED HUSK!
YAAA!
SHE'S YOUR SISTER, HUH?!
MEBBE TIME YOU TWO HAD...
A FAMILY RE-UNION!
WHAKK

THANKS FOR THE SCRAP, FELLAS. BUT IF YOU DON'T MIND...
I'LL JUST BORROW THAT UNHOLY RELIC A' YOURS AND HIT THE ROAD!
SNIKT
'N' WHO ARE YOU SUPPOSED TO BE, BUB? THE BOOGIE MAN?
IT'S BEEN PRE-ORDAINED.
I AM CALLED BLOOD SHADOW.
MINE IS THE POWER TO INVADE MEN'S MINDS.
I CAN ANTICIPATE YOUR EVERY MOVE BEFORE IT'S MADE.
YOU WON'T BE LEAVING, WOLVERINE
YEAH, WELL ANTICIPATE THIS, PAL!
WHAT?! NOBODY'S THAT FAST!
SHEFFE
THIS FIGHT IS OVER.

GETTIN' AHEAD OF YOURSELF, AIN'T YA?
I DIDN'T HEAR NO FAT LADY SINGIN'!
VERY WELL LET'S PLAY THIS OUT.
HE'S COCKY ALL RIGHT...
BUT HE CAN AFFORD IT.
'CAUSE WHILE I'M CLAWIN' AIR...
...HE'S HITTIN' NERVE CLUSTERS/ VITAL AREAS...
NOT LONG 'FORE EVERYTHING STARTS GOIN' BLACK...

COME TO IN THE DARKNESS.
SOME KINDA MANACLE.
'CEPT, OF COURSE! ADAMANTIUM!
SOMETHIN'S HOLDIN' BACK MY LEFT ARM.
NO PROBLEM, JUST CLAW IT OFF.
GOOD OL' ADAMANTIUM CLAWS, CUT THROUGH ANYTHING...
SNIFF SNIFF
THAT SCENT...
NO!
CYBER!
WELCOME T' THE LAND O' THE LIVIN', SHORTY. GOT A LIGHT?
TO BE CONTINUED...

KRAAK
AN ABANDONED WAREHOUSE IN NEW YORK-- IRON FIST, COLLEEN WING, AND MISTY KNIGHT FIND THEMSELVES IN THE MIDDLE OF A SMALL WAR, FIGHTING TO PROTECT AN INFORMANT-TURNED-WITNESS WHO THREATENS TO BRING DOWN A LARGE YAKUZIDA CLAN AND ONE OF THEIR SPLINTER ORGANIZATIONS.
IRON FIST
IN
DEPTHS OF DESPAIR
PART ONE
OPENING GAMBIT
THIS WOULD GO EASIER IF YOU AND YOUR FELLOW WARRIORS WOULD REALIZE YOU'RE FIGHTING A LOSING BATTLE.
NO, IRON FIST! WE'D RATHER DIE THAN FAIL OUR SENPAI!

MISTY, HOW ARE YOU HOLDING UP?
WELL... I'VE HAD BETTER DAYS. NO SIGN OF THE ATTACK LETTING UP. BUT I'M SURE AS HECK NOT GOING HOME A LOSER.
WE'LL STOP THEM, TRUST ME. WITH OUR STOOL-PIGEON HELPING THE F.B.I. WE'LL BRING DOWN THE ENTIRE YAKUZIDA... STARTING WITH THIS FACTION.
THIS KARL POWERS IS A REAL HOT PROPERTY RIGHT NOW.
BRAM
THESE GUYS ARE GOOD, REAL GOOD -- BETTER THAN THE FIRST TIER YAKUZA. NO WONDER THEY DECIDED TO BREAK OFF. THEY'LL MAKE A MINT BY THEMSELVES!
BLAMM
MISTY! WATCH OUT!
MAYBE YOU SHOULD LISTEN TO YOURSELF MORE!
COWARD! A TRUE WARRIOR WOULD NOT ATTACK FROM BEHIND!
I'M STARTING TO WONDER WHY KNIGHTWING RESTORATIONS TOOK THIS JOB FROM THE F.B.I. IN THE FIRST PLACE, COLLEEN.
BLAM
WELL, YOU CAN ALWAYS BLAME THE RECESSION
FORTUNATELY, WE HAD THE AGENTS TAKE POWERS FROM THE AREA BEFORE THESE GOONS BEGAN THEIR ATTACK... ONE LESS THING TO WORRY ABOUT

THE HEADQUARTERS OF THE YAKUZIDA - LOCATED NOT TOO FAR FROM WHERE THE BATTLE WAGES.
A PRIVATE COMPLEX, KNOWN ONLY TO A FEW-- ITS OUTER FACADE BELIES ITS TRUE NATURE... THE QUIET SERENITY, A DECEPTION.
THEIR LEADER, MR. SHIRO IS FURIOUS OVER A SMALL FACTION OF HIS RED DRAGONS BREAKING AWAY AND CREATING THEIR OWN "TONGS".
AAAHH... I'M GLAD YOU'RE FINALLY HERE. I'VE NEVER BEEN ONE TO TOLERATE LATENESS. NOW, COME IN-- WE NEED TO SPEAK.
DO YOU ALWAYS TALK THIS WAY TO YOUR EMPLOYEES? OR ARE YOU JUST HAPPY TO SEE ME?
YOUR WIT AND CHARMING PERSONALITY ARE AS EVER ASTOUNDING.
WELL, I'M FUN AT PARTIES, TOO.
I HAVE LOST MY PATIENCE. I WANT THIS DONE QUICKLY, AND CLEAN.
SOME OF MY MEN WILL ACCOMPANY YOU. I FOR ONE, DO NOT TRUST YOUR SUPPOSED PROWESS ...YOU ARE NOTHING BUT AN ANIMAL.
THE WAY I FIGURE IT IS THAT YOU'RE NOT LONG FOR THIS WORLD, SO, I'LL KILL THIS POWERS INFORMANT GUY...
... AND FOR NO EXTRA CHARGE, I'LL DO YOU. SOUND GOOD.
NO, SABRETOOTH, IT DOES NOT. JUST KILL HIM.
SNARL!

MEANWHILE, THE SITUATION IN THE NEARBY WARE-HOUSE GROWS GRIM...
KRAAK
DANNY!
HE MUST BE HURT...HIS MOVES ARE SO STIFF.
FIST'S REACTIONS ARE SLOWER, HIS MOVES ARE TOO DEFENSIVE TO BE EFFECTIVE... HE HAS TO PRESS THE ATTACK
KWAP
HOW CAN YOU CALL YOURSELF A WARRIOR WHEN YOU LACK A KILLING STYLE
THE GREAT IRON FIST-- HAH! YOU FIGHT WITHOUT GRACE OR PASSION. YOUR CHI IS SOFT.
HE'S RIGHT! MY MOVES--AND MINDSET--ARE WEAK. I CAN'T APPLY MYSELF EFFECTIVELY.
A WARRIOR DOES NOT ALLOW HIMSELF TO BE DISTRACTED.
HIS MIND SHOULD BE UNCLUTTERED... CLEARLY YOURS IS NOT.
WHAT'S WRONG WITH FIST? HE'S GETTING HIS BUTT HANDED TO HIM.
COLLEEN! HURRY, WE HAVE TO HELP HIM.

ELSEWHERE...
LISTEN UP, STIFFS. FIRST OFF, NONE O' YOU ARE WORTH SPIT. YER BETTER OFF STAYING HOME.
YER LIABLE TA GET HURT. I FIGHT ALONE.
MR. SHIRO DEMANDED THAT WE FIGHT ALONGSIDE YOU.
IT IS VITAL TO OUR EXISTENCE THAT THIS MAN, KARL POWERS, IS ELIMINATED. WE ARE HARDLY PLEASED BY THE NEED TO ALLY OURSELVES WITH YOU.
YOUR KIND SHOULD BE ON A LEASH! YOU ARE NOT WORTHY TO FIGHT WITH US.
YER STUPID... BUT YA GOT GUTS.
LET'S SEE 'EM!
YOU BOYS ARE MINE! NONE OF US LIKES IT, BUT TOUGH! ACCEPT IT AND GET YER BUTTS IN GEAR.
QUESTIONS?
DIDN'T THINK SO.

YOU'RE BLINDED BY YOUR OWN RAGE. OPEN YOUR EYES. YOU'RE BEING USED BY YOUR SENPAI, JUST LIKE SHIRO WAS USING YOU.
YOU BROKE OFF FROM YOUR FAMILY FOR WHAT? DRUGS, WEAPONS, PROSTITUTION, AND ASSASSINATIONS? WHERE IS THE HONOR IN THAT?
WE WANTED OUR FREEDOM. WE FIGHT FOR US, NOT SOMEONE ELSE... WE'RE UNITED NOW.
POWERS WAS PART OF YOUR "UNITED" GROUP UNTIL HE FINALLY REALIZED IT WAS ONLY A MATTER OF TIME BEFORE HE WAS KILLED.
JOIN ME AND MY FRIENDS... FIGHT WITH US... HELP US BRING SHIRO TO JUSTICE
YOUR BRAND OF JUSTICE, ONE THAT WE DO NOT BELIEVE IN.
HONOR AND JUSTICE ARE TO BE FOUND IN COMBAT
THAT IS WHY YOU ARE INHERENTLY FLAWED... YOU FIGHT A HOLLOW BATTLE.
KLAK
YOU FIGHT LIKE A BEATEN MAN. ONLY YOU DON'T KNOW IT YET. YOU ARE SO LOST WITHIN YOURSELF, YOU NO LONGER HAVE THE SPIRIT TO FIGHT. YOUR VISION IS CLOUDED... YOU CAN NO LONGER SEE THE TRUTH
NO!
WE HAVE TO HELP HIM, COLLEEN!
NO, MISTY. DANNY HAS TO DO THIS BY HIMSELF. IF WE HELP HIM, HE'LL CONTINUE TO DOUBT HIMSELF. AND TO HIM, THAT'S WORSE THAN DEATH. LET HIM GO, HE'LL BE FINE...
...I HOPE

CLOUDED? NO. I MIGHT NOT BE THE SAME MAN SINCE "RETURNING FROM THE DEAD"*, BUT I AM STILL A WARRIOR
I WILL NOT STAND QUIETLY BY AND LET AN INNOCENT MAN BE MURDERED, BECAUSE YOU HAPPEN TO HAVE A DEMENTED VIEW OF LIFE AND JUSTICE
*NAMOR #23 --Tom
YOU TAKE YOUR SKILLS AND TRAINING, AND OFFER IT TO ANYONE. YET YOU ARE NOT AFRAID TO ACCEPT WEAKNESS. I WILL WORK UNTIL THEY ARE NO LONGER MY FAULTS BUT MY STRENGTHS. CAN YOU SAY THE SAME?
I HAVE SEEN AND EXPERIENCED MUCH VIOLENCE, ENDURED PAIN AND LEARNED FROM IT. THAT IS THE REASON I AM THE MAN THAT I AM
SKRAASH
THAT IS WHY I NEVER LOSE. I WILL ALWAYS FIND A WAY TO WIN... AND RAISE MYSELF ABOVE THOSE WHO CAN'T
CAN YOU SAY THE SAME?

CAN YOU? WHERE IS YOUR BRAVADO NOW WARRIOR? I COULD TAKE YOUR LIFE WITH ONE BLOW... BUT I WILL NOT
IT IS HARDER TO ACCEPT YOUR ENEMY THAN IT IS TO KILL THEM.
I AM NO MURDERER. YET I WILL DEFEAT YOUR CLAN... AND ANY-ONE THAT TRIES TO HARM AN INNOCENT.
TELL THEM TO COME. I'LL BE WAITING.
PLOP
A QUIET EVENING. HE HEARS THE VIOLENCE, SMELLS THE ANGER AND THE SWEAT... IT'S EXHILARAT-ING. HE IS ENTHRALLED BY THE EMOTIONS... THRIVES ON THEM.
HE JUMPS FROM ROOF-TOP TO ROOF-TOP AS EASILY AS ANOTHER MAN WOULD TAKE A STEP
AAAHH... LOVE THE SMELL OF BLOOD.
AND BEFORE THE NIGHT'S OVER, IT'LL FLOW IN RIVERS THROUGH THE STREETS.
HA HA HA HA HA!

CONTINUES NEXT ISSUE...

MARVEL COMICS PRESENTS
featuring
GHOST RIDER
AND
CAGE
$1.50 US
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133
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DIRECT EDITION
ALSO:
CLOAK DAGGER
MACNEIL '93

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c/o Marvel Comics Group
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Dear Terry and Mark,

Okay, guys, here's my review of MARVEL COMICS PRESENTS #130:

Wolverine Cover: Once again, Fry and Collazo produced another wonderful cover. Whoever colored it also did a fine job. Grade: A+.

Ghost Rider/Typhoid Mary Cover: This was also a nice piece of work, which complemented the inside story perfectly. Grade: A.

"Passion Play" Part 8: I found the final chapter of this story to be more than a bit anti-climactic. Also, like Nick Fury said, there were quite a few loose ends. Still, it was pretty good. "Passion Play" may be over, but I get the feeling we have not heard the last of the Lynx. Grade: B+.

"The Walking Wounded" Part 8: This was a good ending to a story that's had its ups and downs. Dusk met a well-deserved fate, and Ghostie came out on top. Too bad he wasn't able to help Mary, though. Grade: A.

American Eagle: I was surprised to see this guy back in MCP so soon, but I don't really mind. "Screams" was an interesting one-part story, and a nice read. Let's see the Eagle in some other books. Grade: B+.

"The Book of Changus" Part 6: So, not only can Joey Cavalieri use the word "flubber," but he can also make reference to Mystery Science Theater 3000! You know, now that I think about it, Iron Fist does have a passing resemblance to Crow, one of the robots on that show. Well, then again, maybe not... At least I didn't say Baron von Strucker looked like Tom Servo! Grade: A.

Overall grade: A. See ya in two weeks, guys!

Ben Herman
45 Runyan Place
Scarsdale, NY 10583

Wow, thanks for the high grade, Ben. We knew you were always a sucker for those Mystery Science Theater references...

Seriously, though, we would like to take this time to make some announcements concerning the editorial reins of MARVEL COMICS PRESENTS. Next issue there will be a new name in the Editor spot—Richard Ashford. As of this issue, young Terry Kavanagh is leaving staff to pursue a freelance writing career (he already writes WEB OF SPIDER-MAN and MOON KNIGHT). We're going to miss him... Anyway, MARVEL COMICS PRESENTS will now enter the capable hands of Mr. Ashford, who will be able assisted by bullpen veteran Mike Kraiger. What's happened to Mark (Michael Irvin) Powers, you ask? Well, he's going off to try out as a receiver for the Super Bowl Champion Dallas Cowboys—oh, no, that's not it. Actually, he's been promoted to Associate Editor under Spidey mogul Danny Fingeroth. Mark will now be in charge of SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN, SPIDER-MAN CLASSIC, and the TROY AIKMAN LIMITED SERIES, as well as other Spider-related projects. And now, since we still have a little space, let's have a word from Richard, our neo-Editor...

"HI"

MARVEL COMICS PRESENTS

GHOST RIDER

Colin MacNeil — COVER
Terry Kavanagh — EDITOR IN RETREAT
Mark Powers — ASSISTANT EDITOR
Tom DeFalco — EDITOR IN CHIEF

pg.
GHOST RIDER/CAGE .. 1
HEART AND SOUL...
Part 3 of 6
"EMOTIONAL RESCUE"

Neither Ghost Rider or Cage seem able to stop Darklove's homicidal spree. So powerful is the menace that it is affecting Ghost Rider's ability to change to Dan Ketch...

Writer — KARL BOLLERS
Penciler — FREDDY MENDEZ
Inker — MALCOLM JONES
Letterer —DIANA ALBERS
Colorist — MIKE THOMAS

pg.
CLOAK & DAGGER 9
"NOCTURNAL CRAVINGS"

Vampires love the dark but how do they fare in the darkness that is Cloak....?

Writer —CHUCK KIM
Penciler — WALTER MC DANIELS
Inker — GREG ADAMS
Letterer — DIANA ALBERS
Colorist — JOHN KALISZ

EVERYTHING IS DARKER, CAGE
OR IS IT POWERMAN?
GET OUTTA MY MIND!
OR CARL LUCAS, PERHAPS?
I SAID OUT!
WHICH IDENTITY DO YOU CHOOSE NOW, HMM?
NO CHOICES...
THERE ARE ALWAYS CHOICES, FRIEND
YOU MADE THE CHOICE TO JOIN THE HARLEM STREET GANGS IN YOUTH DIDN'T YOU?
SHUT YOUR @#$% TRAP!
NAUGHTY! NAUGHTY! AND WHAT ABOUT REVA... YOUR FIRST LOVE DIDN'T SHE DIE BECAUSE OF YOUR CRIMINAL ACTIVITIES, TOO?
IT COST YOUR MOTHER HER LIFE... SHE'S WITH US YOU KNOW
AT THIS RATE, I'LL HAVE TO KILL YOU BEFORE YOU REACH MY BODY COUNT I CAN'T STAND THE COMPETITION!
CAN'T HURT ME... I'M INVULNERABLE...
YOU CAN'T BLUFF A TELEPATH, MORTAL. I KNOW YOUR GUILT IS SELF-CONSUMING
WE'RE QUITE ALIKE, YOU AND I..
SOCIAL MISFITS -- THE PAGE WON'T HELP YOU YOU HAVE TO BE IN LOVE TO READ IT -- OR BE ME -- YOU ONLY KNOW HATE.
AND LIKE LOVE...
...IT BURNS!

HEART AND SOUL
EMOTIONAL RESCUE

HUH?
HOW'D YOU KNOW I NEEDED HELP?
DARK-LOVE...
...AND I...
...ARE CONNECTED, SOMEHOW.
AFFECTING THE CHANGE.
THE GHOST RIDER LOOKS LIKE HE GOT BUSTED UP BY THE DEVIL HIMSELF
CLOSE, BUT NOT QUITE. YOU'VE BOTH GOTTEN OFF EASILY THIS TIME
NEXT TIME, YOU WON'T BE SO--

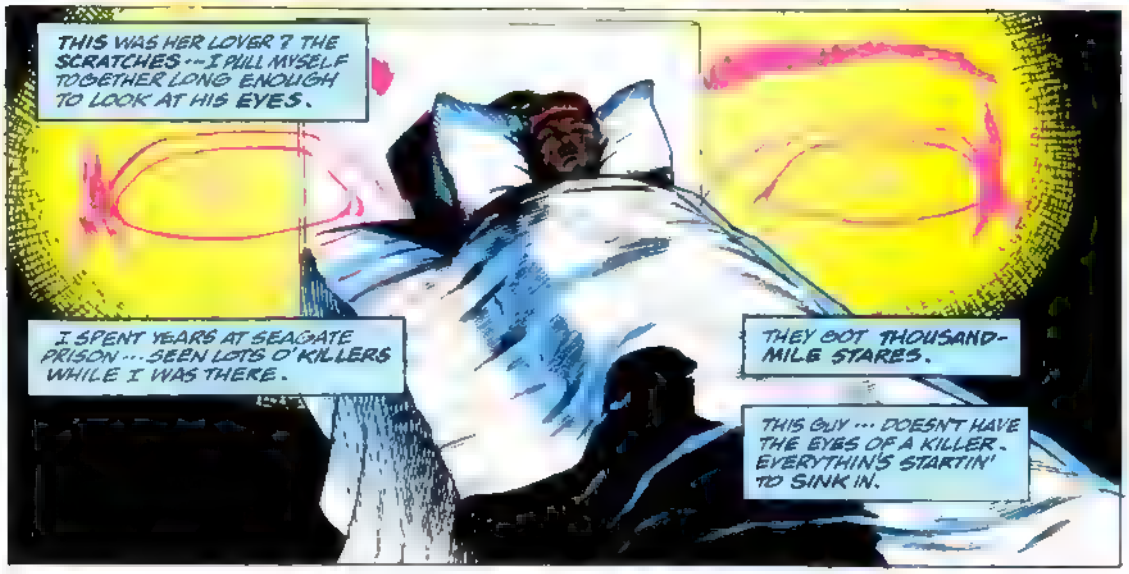
LUCKY?
THE PLAZA HOTEL.
YES! YOU'RE LUCKY THE NEWSPAPER DOESN'T TAKE LEGAL ACTION AGAINST YOU!
I HAVEN'T HEARD WORD ONE FROM YOU SINCE WE WERE DISCONNECTED THE OTHER NIGHT!
LUCKY?
I CAN'T REITERATE HOW MUCH YOU'RE NEEDED HERE. YOU'RE NO LONGER A NEW YORK CITY BRUISER, CAGE. YOU'RE A CELEBRITY!
...HOMELESS MAN MURDERED BY LOVER... LATEST IN THE CUPID-CULT SLAYINGS...
THEN WHY AIN'T I THE ONE WHO'S RUNNING THINGS?
CAGE, ARE YOU ALL RIGHT? IS EVERYTHING OKAY?
EVERYTHING'S COPACETIC, ANA.
I JUST NEED SOME MORE TIME TO GET BACK ON TRACK... HARMONY'S DEATH, IT-- LET'S JUST SAY...
...IT'S A...
...SLOW...
...HEALING PROCESS.

I'LL BE IN TOUCH. PEACE.
THE GHOST RIDER AIN'T TOO LONG ON WORDS...
...HE RAMBLED ON FOR A MINUTE, TALKIN' ABOUT HOW 'DARKLOVE' IS LOOSE IN THE WAKING WORLD.
YOU LIKE SOUL FOOD?
YO, KILL THAT NOISE, ALL RIGHT? I DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU SEE ON THAT FUNKY PAGE THAT I CAN'T, BUT I'LL TELL YOU NOW IT AIN'T WORTH SMASHIN' THE JOINT!
YOU'RE ON SOME SERIOUS MISSION!
YES--
--OF VENGEANCE.
THE DARKLOVE ENTITY POSSESSES--
--AND IS CURSED TO KILL.
LAST NIGHT WE BONDED--
WHEN THE BEAST STRIKES--
--I FEEL THE VICTIM'S PAIN--
--TO MY REGRET.
I FIND MYSELF WONDERIN' IF THE SKULL EVER PRAYS...

MY RACIST DETECTIVE FRIEND BEEPED ME THIS AFTERNOON.
THEY RELEASED THE WHEREABOUTS OF HARMONY'S LOVER TO THE PRESS ...
... BELLEVUE HOSPITAL.
ANSWERS ... AM I GONNA GET 'EM THIS TIME ?

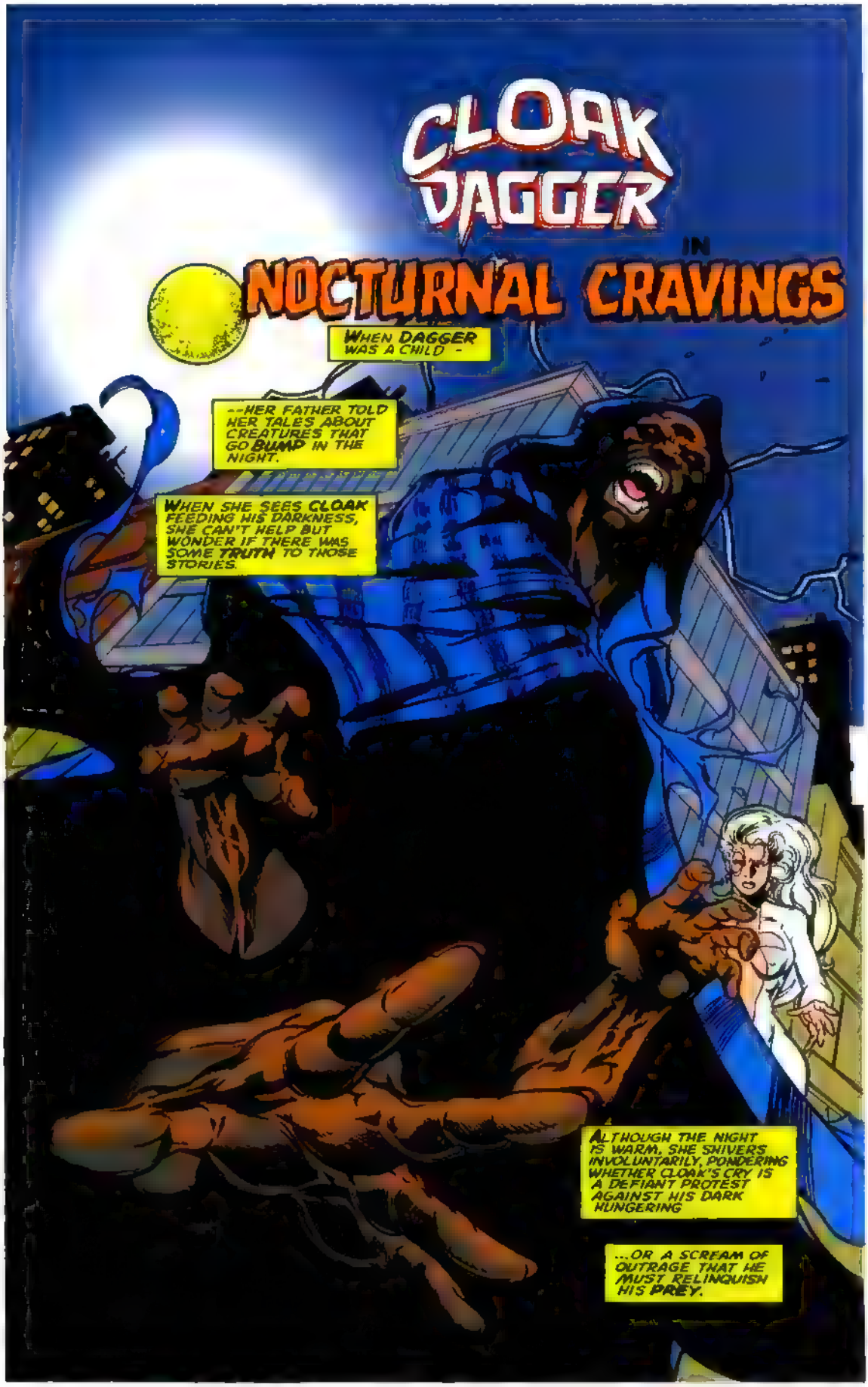
DARKLOVE, THE THING THAT'S BEEN READIN' MY MIND, IS IT RESPONSIBLE FOR ALL O' THIS ?
OR IS IT JUST A DEFENSE MECHANISM ? BECAUSE I CAN'T ACCEPT HARMONY'S DEA --

THEN I SEE 'IM. IT'S MORE LIKE IT, THOUGH.


THIS WAS HER LOVER ? THE SCRATCHES -- I PULL MYSELF TOGETHER LONG ENOUGH TO LOOK AT HIS EYES.
I SPENT YEARS AT SEAGATE PRISON ... SEEN LOTS O' KILLERS WHILE I WAS THERE.
THEY GOT THOUSAND-MILE STARES.
THIS GUY ... DOESN'T HAVE THE EYES OF A KILLER. EVERYTHIN'S STARTIN' TO SINK IN.

MR. CAGE, ARE YOU OFFICALLY WORKING WITH N.Y.P.D. ON THE CUPID CULT INVESTIGATION?
THEY'RE WAY OFF BASE ON THAT CULT THEORY.
CAGE, HOW MUCH QUESTIONING CAN YOU TAKE BEFORE MAKING A STATEMENT?
HEY, HERO .. CAN YOU TAKE THIS?
QUESTION IS WILL I.
IT'S MORE MUCH MORE...
BLAM! BLAM! BLAM! BLAM!
...THE ANSWER'S NO!
SKRUNCH
...SNAPPED HIS WRIST...
"LIKE A TWIG."

WE CAN'T STAY HERE.
POLICE FILE
YOU ARE CORRECT.
I KNOW THE PAGE'S EVIL--
"--AND PITY ITS OWNER."
THIS PAGE, THIS DARK LOVE, THESE MURDERS... ARE ALL INTERRELATED SOMEHOW.
FIND MYSELF WONDERIN' IF THIS MONSTER HAS BONES... AND IF THEY BREAK...
CONTINUES NEXT ISSUE


CLOAK DAGGER
IN
NOCTURNAL CRAVINGS
WHEN DAGGER WAS A CHILD -
--HER FATHER TOLD HER TALES ABOUT CREATURES THAT GO BUMP IN THE NIGHT.
WHEN SHE SEES CLOAK FEEDING HIS DARKNESS, SHE CAN'T HELP BUT WONDER IF THERE WAS SOME TRUTH TO THOSE STORIES.
ALTHOUGH THE NIGHT IS WARM, SHE SHIVERS INVOLUNTARILY, PONDERING WHETHER CLOAK'S CRY IS A DEFIANT PROTEST AGAINST HIS DARK HUNGERING
...OR A SCREAM OF OUTRAGE THAT HE MUST RELINQUISH HIS PREY.

I AM... FINISHED
DAGGER, WHAT DISTURBS YOU?
PLEASE, NO MORE... THE COLD...
THERE'S A KILLER LOOSE, STALKING RUNAWAYS AND WE STILL HAVEN'T FOUND A CLUE.
RUNAWAYS LIKE WE WERE!
THIS MONSTER HAS BEEN DRINKING THE VICTIMS' BLOOD--FEEDING OFF THEM!
MONSTER, DAGGER? A MONSTER, LIKE...
...ME?
YOU KNOW THAT'S NOT WHAT I MEANT.
...OR PERHAPS I DID! OH, CLOAK.
COME, THE LATEST VICTIM WAS FOUND IN CENTRAL PARK. PERHAPS THERE WE CAN FIND SOME CLUE.
THESE MEN WON'T BE HURTING ANYONE TOO SOON.

I THOUGHT THEY'D NEVER LEAVE. IT'S GETTING SOOO TOUGH FOR A LADY TO HAVE SOME FUN AROUND HERE.
WHO?
TESSA, DARLING, I'M ABSOLUTELY FAMISHED FOR A PARTY. YOU BOYS JUST GOING TO LIE THERE AND MISS THE ACTION?
I'M SURE YOU'LL FIND TESSA'S EMBRACE NO LESS FRIGHTENING...
..AND JUST AS VICIOUS AS CLOAK'S.
AH, WHICH TO CHOOSE...YOU BOTH LOOK ABSOLUTELY DELECTABLE.
"HMMM... I'LL PICK STUD #1."
PUCKER UP, BABY... AFTER ALL, NOT JUST ANYONE GETS PICKED UP BY A VAMPIRE!
MMMM... YOU LOOK ABSOLUTELY EXQUISITE. YOU WILL KEEP MY SECRET, WON'T YOU?
SORRY, BUT I'VE GOTTA RUN--
--GOT A DATE WITH CLOAK AND DAGGER!

CENTRAL PARK...
WE'VE BEEN SEARCHING FOR HOURS AND NOTHING! ALL THESE POWERS AND WE CAN'T DO ANYTHING--
EEEEEEE!!
A WOMAN, BUT FROM WHERE?
PLEASE HELP!
OH GOD, HELP ME!
HELP!
I PRAY WE AREN'T TOO LATE.
PLEASE, HELP MY SISTER! SOME... THING GRABBED HER! IT DRAGGED HER INTO THAT BUILDING!
CALL THE POLICE FIND SOME- PLACE SAFE.
I DIDN'T KNOW YOU CARED!

THE SENSE OF DEATH-- IT'S ALMOST TANGIBLE-- LIKE WALKING OVER MY OWN GRAVE.
WHA--?
FESSTT
I MUST FIND DAGGER BEFORE...
SHUNKT!
CLOAK!
YOU MUST LEAVE. I CANNOT GUARANTEE YOUR SAFETY.
I COULDN'T LEAVE. YOU MAKE ME FEEL SAFE.
PLEASE, CLOAK, LOOK AT ME. AND CALL ME TESSA.
VERY WELL, TESSA...
WHILE BELOW...
MY LIGHT KNIVES CAN BARELY PENETRATE THIS DARKNESS.
IT'S AS IF SUPERNATURAL FORCES ARE...
THE GIRL... YOU!
WHAT'S GOING ON HERE?
WHY DAGGER DARLING, YOU LOOK POSITIVELY SHOCKED!
POOR BUNNY, I'LL HAVE TO... RELAX YOU.

I CAN'T MOVE.
SILLY GIRL, YOU'RE UNDER MY POWER. FULLY AWARE, BUT FROZEN AS LONG AS I WILL SO.
I WATCHED YOU TWO TONIGHT. YOUR BEAU HERE HAS SOME KILLER MOVES.
SEEMS TO ME, CLOAK AND I HAVE OODLES IN COMMON, BUT HE'S SOOOO REPRESSED. ALL HE NEEDS IS A NUDGE IN THE RIGHT DIRECTION.
CLOAK, LISTEN TO ME. YOU'VE RESISTED YOUR POWER FOR SO LONG. I KNOW YOUR HUNGER, I SHARE THE PAIN WITH YOU. I AM VAMPYRE!
NO MORE HOLDING BACK. NO MORE EXCUSES. TIME TO LET LOOSE. EMBRACE YOUR POWER!
NO!
YOU DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU ARE DOING!
DARK...
...SO PAINFUL!
NEVER IMAGINED... SO ALONE... COLD.
CLOAK, HE LOOKS SO FERAL...LIKE HE'S GOING TO KILL--
CLOAK! STOP!

WOMAN, YOU LOVE TO KILL. THE THRILL OF THE HUNT. YOU GAVE ME THE CRAVING.
ONLY FAIR THAT I RETURN THE FAVOR.
I SURRENDER! STOP! NO!
HUNGER... RAVENOUS. I MUST FEED!
SHE'S BEEN ENGULFED BY CLOAK'S DARK FORCE!
MUST ENTER THE DARKNESS. EVEN WITH MY LIGHT POWERS ABSORBING THE BRUNT OF CLOAK'S ASSAULT, I CAN STILL FEEL THE COLD.
IF THIS IS WHAT I'M FEELING, HER LIFE IS IN DANGER! EVEN THOUGH SHE HAS DRIVEN CLOAK INSANE, I MUST HELP HER.
MUST USE MY LIGHT POWERS TO PROTECT US BOTH. IF I STAY HERE MUCH LONGER, I'LL ...DIE. BUT I CAN'T ABANDON HER, NO MATTER HOW EVIL SHE IS.
CLOAK! WILL YOU BECOME THE VERY DEMON YOU FEAR? WILL YOU KILL FOR YOUR HUNGER?
I KNOW YOU'RE STRONGER THAN THAT! DO YOU HEAR ME TYRONE? BE A MAN, NOT A MONSTER!

UUHHH!
WITCH!
FOR YEARS, I HAVE BOTTLED UP MY FEELINGS... MY DESIRES. RESTRAINT BECAME NORMAL. THE PAIN ALMOST MANAGEABLE.
YET, FOR YOUR PLEASURE, YOUR AMUSEMENT, YOU DESTROYED THAT DISCIPLINE.
PERHAPS, HARRIDAN, THIS WORLD WOULD BE A BETTER PLACE WITHOUT YOU.
NO!
VAMPIRES ARE IMMORTAL. PERHAPS AN ETERNITY WITHIN MY CLOAK WILL EVEN THE SCORE.
YOU HAVE AN EVIL WITHIN YOU THAT MATCHES MY OWN.
PERHAPS WE SHOULD PUT IT TO THE TEST.
ENOUGH!
I... THANK YOU, DAGGER.
DR. STRANGE CAN DEAL WITH HER NOW.
WITHOUT DAGGER, MIGHT I HAVE BECOME LIKE TESSA?
IF SO, WHAT RIGHT DO I HAVE TO JUDGE HER?
END